THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIAPPA): (a) to (d) For a smooth flow of traffic as well as for safety considerations, the guidelines have been issued by the Ministry for laying the utility services including water pipelines along and across National Highways. The State Chief Engineers/equivalent officers of the executing agencies are authorized for according permission for the laying of utility services along and across National Highways. Records of permission given by them are not being maintained in the Ministry to assess delays in implementation of projects. However, if it is considered necessary to relax any condition of the guidelines, prior approval of this Ministry needs to be obtained. No such proposal for relaxation received from States is pending in the Ministry.

**Survey of ships in foreign countries**

1328. DR. M. A. M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are long delays for ships and other sea-going vessels to get surveys done in India;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Directorate General of Shipping allows ships and other vessels to get their surveys done by the Indian Register of Shipping in foreign countries;

(c) the manner in which the Directorate General of Shipping helps the shipping and other sectors to get efficient surveys done abroad through the Indian Register of Shipping; and

(d) the steps proposed to modernize such surveys and other procedures and make India a modern maritime nation?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) As per the Government Notification No. 640 (E) dated 27th May, 2004, seven Classification Societies including Indian Register of Shipping are delegated the responsibility of carrying out the survey of ships for the purpose of issue of statutory certificates in foreign countries. For the purpose of the issue of International Load line Certificates only Indian Register of Shipping is the authorized assigning authority.

(c) The process has been simplified and the shipping companies are required to directly approach the Classification societies.

(d) Surveys are carried out as per-

(i) International Maritime Organization Guidelines and rules framed under Merchant Shipping Act.

(ii) Directorate General of Shipping and allied offices are implementing e-Govemance for modernizing the system.